

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, and 9 are amended by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Agraharam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,482, hereinafter Agraharam) in view of Porter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,299, hereinafter Porter).

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Agraharam in view of Porter, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites in part:

reception means for receiving a group request to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of groups, the group request selecting a respective one of the plurality of groups, and for receiving a content request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups, the content request including a selection from the list of available content;

acquisition means for acquiring data coordinated with the content request; and

communication means for transmitting the data acquired by said acquisition means simultaneously to *all of* those of the information processing apparatuses accessing the shared server and belonging to a same group.

(Emphasis added.)

The outstanding Office Action cited Agraharam as describing "reception means" at page 3, paragraphs 28 and 34.¹ However, Agraharam describes a system wherein a "conductor" at conductor session terminal (201) selects multimedia information that BWS center (100) provides to selected client terminals (103) and (104).² Only conductor session terminal (201) is configured to specify session parameters to send a broadcast to a list of

¹See outstanding Office Action, page 3, lines 9-12.

²See Agraharam, Abstract and paragraph 13.

participating client terminals.³ Agraharam does not teach or suggest that BWS center (100) receives any session parameters from the client terminals (103) or (104).

In response, the Advisory Action dated September 14, 2005 cited the request for an audio connection of step 445 of Figure 6 and described in paragraph 38 of Agraharam as “a content request transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses belonging to one of the plurality of groups.” However, it is respectfully noted that Agraharam describes that “a request to establish an audio link with one or more members of the *session audience*.”⁴ Agraharam defines the session audience as only including client terminals (103) and (104).⁵ Thus, contrary to the unsupported assertion at page 2, lines 15-17 of the Advisory Action dated September 14, 2005, the session conductor *cannot* be a member of the session audience participating in an audio session requested by a member of the session audience. Thus, the request for an audio link described in paragraph 38 of Agraharam is not “a content request” as recited in amended Claim 1. As Porter does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Agraharam, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and Claims 2 and 3 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Agraharam in view of Porter.

Independent Claims 4-6, 8, and 9 recite similar elements to Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-6, 8, and 9 (and Claim 7 dependent therefrom) are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

³See Agraharam, paragraph 27.

⁴See Agraharam, paragraph 38.

⁵See Agraharam, paragraph 27.

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Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-9 patentably defines over the asserted references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

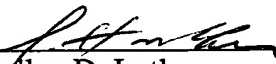
Respectfully submitted,

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